

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FEA-02 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /185 W

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R 031113Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9237

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 686

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL ZURICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 2506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD, SZ

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SUBJECT: SWISS CONCERNS RE INTERNATIONAL OIL POLICY COORDINATION

1. FOLLOWING CONVERSATION ON OTHER SUBJECTS JULY 2, LEVY (OFFICER IN CHARGE OF OECD AND ENERGY AFFAIRS IN SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE) TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOS WAS FINDING PROBLEMS IN UNDERSTANDING STATE OF PLAY OF EFFORTS TO DEVELOP OIL SHARING SCHEME. HE RECALLED THAT SWISS DEL HAD PARTICIPATED JUNE 11 IN OECD OIL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF WORKING GROUP REPORT ON EMERGENCY OIL SHARING SCHEME (OECD PARIS 14329). SWISS WERE THUS "ASTONISHED" TO LEARN FROM PRESS AND OTHER "WELL-INFORMED" SOURCES THAT ON JUNE 17 ECG HAD DISCUSSED "VERY INTERESTING AND FAR-REACHING" US PROPOSAL FOR INTEGRATED EMERGENCY PROGRAM. LEVY POINTED OUT THAT OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES WERE ASKED MAKE WRITTEN COMMENTS ON WORKING GROUP SHARING SCHEME, BUT THAT THIS CONCEPT ALREADY SUPERSEDED BY NEW US INITIATIVE.

2. LEVY NOTED THAT CURRENT PROBLEM WAS NOT NEW AND THAT SWISS HAD EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT LIMITED COMPOSITION EVEN BEFORE ECG WAS ESTABLISHED AT FEBRUARY WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. HE SAID SWISS CAN UNDERSTAND WHY SMALLER GROUP OF COUNTRIES MAY HAVE GREATER SUCCESS DEVELOPING OUTLINES OF PROGRAM, BUT THAT IT MUST ALSO BE KEPT IN MIND THAT NON-PARTICIPANTS IN ECG MAY WELL HAVE GREAT PROBLEMS ACCEPTING FAIT ACCOMPLI IF THEY HAVE HAD NO OPPORTUNITY EXPRESS OPINION AT STAGE WHERE SHARING SCHEME IS ELABORATED.

3. LEVY RECALLED THAT SWISS HAD WELCOMED WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE AND GREATER INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY EFFORTS TO COORDINATE ENERGY POLICY, BUT THEY HAD ASSUMED (OR HOPED) THAT ECG WOULD BE ONLY SHORT-TERM EXERCISE. THEY HAD IN PAST ADVOCATED A GREATER OECD OECD ROLE BUT THEY UNDERSTOOD THE RELUCTANCE OF SOME RE USING THAT ORGANIZATION, AND THUS ARE OPEN-MINDED RE ANY SOLUTION WHICH WOULD ALLOW A VOICE AT NOT TOO LATE A STAGE FOR THOSE COUNTRIES PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY AND IN A POSITIVE MANNER.

4. ON SUBSTANCE, LEVY REITERATED SWISS SUPPORT FOR A LINK BETWEEN SHARING AND SUCH OTHER PROGRAMS AS STOCK-CONFIDENTIAL

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PILING AND DEMAND RESTRAINT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SWITZERLAND HAS VERY HIGH EMERGENCY STOCKS WHICH HE IMPLIED COULD PERHAPS BE INCLUDED IN SHARING ARRANGEMENT.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT. AT RISK OF SOUNDING LIKE SPECIAL PLEADERS FOR OUR CLIENTS, WE WOULD SUBMIT THAT SWISS HAVE A POINT. WE HOPE SOME CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO INVOLVING SWITZERLAND (AND PRESUMABLY SOME

OTHER ECG OUTSIDERS) IN WORK PROGRAM OF ENERGY COORDINATION GROUP. WHILE WE HAVE RESPECTED NOFORN CAPTIONS OF SUCH REPORTS AS BRUSSELS 4283, WE KNOW THAT GOS IS BEING KEPT INFORMED AND RECEIVING ECG DOCUMENTS FROM SOME PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENT (PROBABLY NORWAY BUT POSSIBLY EC MEMBER STATE OR COMMISSION). PROBLEM THUS IS NOT INFORMATION, BUT LACK OF ANY FEELING OF BEING INVOLVED IN WHAT SWISS REGARD AS CONTINUING IMPORTANT AREA OF CONCERN FOR OIL IMPORTING COUNTRIES. WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT.
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